

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCS-03 SCA-01 L-03 SY-04 H-03 SS-20

NSC-07 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 INR-11 NSAE-00

RSC-01 CG-00 DOTE-00 DRC-01 PRS-01 /081 W

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2102

INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 13303

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: CASC PFOR UR US (KUDIRKA, SIMAS)

SUBJ: KUDIRKA CASE

REF: MOSCOW 13269

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: IN INFORMAL DISCUSSION OF KUDIRKA CASE WITH ME AT SPASO HOUSE RECEPTION EVENING AUGUST 30, USA DIVISION CHIEF KORNIYENKO IMPLIED KUDIRKA HAS BEEN RELEASED. HOWEVER, OUR DISCUSSION DID NOT CONSTITUTE ON-THE-RECORD MFA CONFIRMATION OF RELEASE WHICH WE COULD REPORT TO PRESS AND PUBLIC. FOR REASONS NOT ENTIRELY CLEAR AT THIS STAGE, MFA IS HOLDING BACK FROM GIVING EMBASSY ANY ON-THE-RECORD REPLY TO QUERIES ABOUT KUDIRKA. AS DECISION TO RELEASE KUDIRKA IS NO DOUBT SENSITIVE WITHIN SOVIET GOVERNMENT, EMBASSY CONSIDERS IT IN KUDIRKA'S INTEREST NOT TO PRESS MFA FOR OFFICIAL REPLY AT THIS TIME. END SUMMARY.

2. I NOTED TO KORNIYENKO THAT SAKHAROV HAD REPORTED KUDIRKA'S RELEASE TO PRESS, AND I ASKED ADVICE ON HOW EMBASSY MIGHT BE HELPFUL IN FACILITATING KUDIRKA'S DEPARTURE FOR UNITED STATES. KORNIYENKO INDICATED "IF KUDIRKA WISHES TO GO TO US" HE ANTICIPATED THAT CASE WOULD BE HANDLED IN NORMAL MANNER FOR SOVIET CITIZEN GOING ABROAD (APPLICATION WITH VYZOV TO LOCAL OVIR FOR EXIT VISA, ETC.).

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KORNIYENKO ADVISED THAT EMBASSY TAKE NO ACTION AT THIS

TIME AND LET MATTERS "PROCEED NORMALLY." WHEN KORNIYENKO COMMENTED THAT MINIMUM PUBLICITY WOULD BE HELPFUL, I NOTED THAT CASE WOULD INEVITABLY AROUSE INTEREST AND PUBLICITY IN US.

3. IN SEPARATE CONVERSTATION WITH CONSOFF, JUNIOR MFA OFFICER WHO HAD WORKED ON CASE DID NOT CONFIRM KUDIRKA'S RELEASE, BUT ACTED AS IF SAKHAROV ANNOUNCEMENT WAS NO SURPRISE. HE REVEALED ANNOYANCE THAT SOVIET GOVERNMENT HAD ACCEDED TO WHAT HE CONSIDERED UNREASONBLE REQUEST. HE ASKED HOW OFTEN US WILL IMPOSE SUCH DEMANDS "FOR THE SAKE OF DETENTE." HE ALSO QUESTIONED BONA FIDES OF CITIZENSHIP CASE, WHICH CONSOFF THEN EXPLAINED AT LENGTH. MFA OFFICER SEEMS WELL DISPOSED TOWARD DETENTE AND AS USA DIVISION AMERIKANIST HE MIGHT BE EXPECTED TO LOOK FAVORABLY ON RESOLUTION OF SUCH PROBLEM, BUT HE CLEARLY HAD AMBIVALENT FEELINGS ABOUT REPORTED OUTCOME.

4. TO DATE NEIGHTER KUDIRKA NOR HIS MOTHER HAVE CONTACTED EMBASSY.

5. CONGRESSMAN HANRAHAN PHONED EMBASSY ABOUT 0200 MOSCOW TIME TO INQUIRE ABOUT KUDIRKA CASE. EMBOFF ENDEAVORED TO RETURN CALL SUBSEQUENTLY, BUT WAS UNSUCCESSFUL. PLEASE INFORM CONGRESSMANS OFFICE.
STOESSEL

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